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CUD



FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS

T. LABAL 094

The Story

PERFORMANCE ARTIST BOB CUDD HAS ACHIEVED NATIONWIDE NOTORIETY AND VAST WEALTH WITH HIS OUTRAGEOUS ONSTAGE ANTICS. NOW HIS CAREER IS COMING APART. IGNORED BY THE MANAGER WHO MADE HIM A STAR AND SUED BY THE WIFE HE LOVED AND TRUSTED, HE FINDS HIMSELF FALLING INTO OBSCURE POVERTY AS FAST AS HE ONCE ROSE TO FAME.

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"You Can't Spank the Monkey if He's On Your Back"

IT'S BEEN A HELL OF A MONTH FOR BOB. OLD FRIENDS SUDDENLY DON'T KNOW HIM...



...AND LUCRATIVE CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN SUDDENLY CANCELLED.



PART 8 THE BIGGER THEY ARE

by TERRY LABAN 94

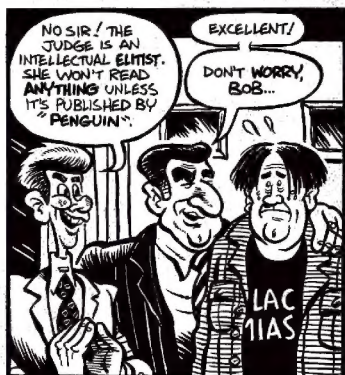


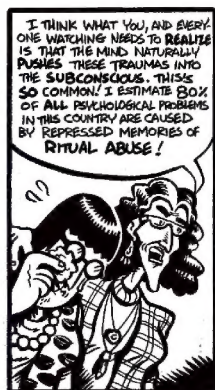
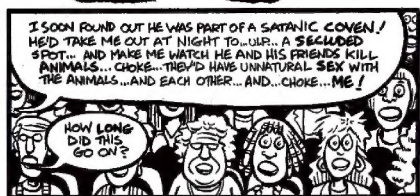
A MAN ACCUSTOMED TO PLAYING THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST STADIUMS HAS BEEN FORCED TO WORK CONSIDERABLY SMALLER VENUES...



... AND EVEN THOSE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO BOOK.

MEANWHILE, EXPENSES CONTINUE TO MOUNT. FROM THE "WAR ROOM", A RENTED SUITE IN A PRICEY HOTEL, A PLATOON OF EXPENSIVE LAWYERS BATTLE BOB'S WIFE IN A BITTER DIVORCE.

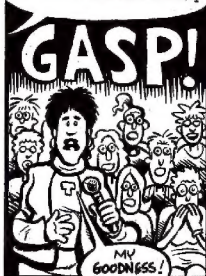




WELL...ORIGINALLY, BOB WAS VERY KIND TO BILLY. HE PAID FOR THE CHEMOTHERAPY THAT CURED HIS LEUKEMIA. BUT, IT SOON BECAME CLEAR THAT...CHOKE...BOB HAD...ULTERIOR MOTIVES FOR GETTING...CLOSE TO MY SON AND I.



YOU SEE...BOB IS A... HOMOSEXUAL PEDOPHILE! HE GOT BILLY...GASP...HOOKED ON DRUGS...SOB...AND THEN WOULD ONLY SUPPLY THEM...SOB...IN EXCHANGE FOR SEX!



ARE YOU OK, FILA?

YES...CHOKE. I'M SORRY.

O-ONE DAY, BILLY DECIDED HE COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE...GASP...SOMEHOW, HE GOT A GUN AND WENT TO...KILL BOB.



...BOB'S BODYGUARD SHOT HIM!



LUCKILY, WE HAVE A CORROBORATIVE WITNESS. WHILE MRS. CUDD REGAINS HER COMPOSURE, LET'S WELCOME OUR NEXT GUEST, THE CUDD'S BUTLER, FITZHUGH FITZPATRICK!



MR. FITZPATRICK, LET'S GET SOMETHING OUT ON THE TABLE IMMEDIATELY. COULD YOU COMMENT ON ALLEGATIONS THAT YOU'VE ONLY COME FORWARD WITH THIS LURID TALE BECAUSE WE'RE PAYING YOU AN EXORBITANT FEE?



BUT I WOULD'VE TAKEN FAR LESS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC OF THE TRAGIC TRUTH.

YOU MISERABLE BASTARD!!



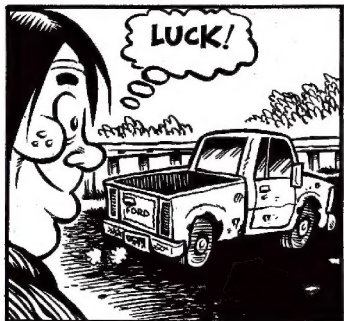
CLERK, DOES THE JUDGE WASH "OFRAH"?

RELIGIOUSLY, SIR.

I KNEW IT! ALL THE INTELLECTUALS WASH "OFRAH". LOOK, BOB, DON'T PANIC. WE'LL JUST MOVE TO PLAN "B"!











"WELL, I WAS JUST ABOUT TO JUMP FROM THE LEDGE OF THE HOTEL WINDOW WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN I HEARD A VOICE FROM THE NEXT ROOM."



"IT BELONGED TO A KIND AND GENTLE MAN WHO INVITED ME IN, CLEANED ME UP, AND COMFORTED ME WITH THE SIMPLE JOYS OF PRIME TIME TV."



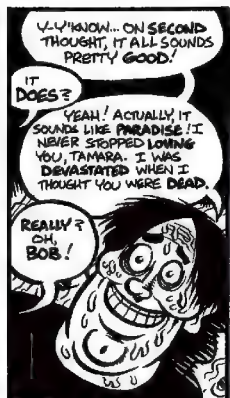
"HIS NAME WAS ERNIE CUPBOARD, AND HE SOLD CAPS FOR BICYCLE INNER TUBE VALVES. HIS WIFE HAD RECENTLY DIED AND HE WAS ALONE WITH TWO KIDS. HE REPRESENTED EVERYTHING I THOUGHT I DESPISED, BUT SUDDENLY IT ALL SEEMED LIKE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR."

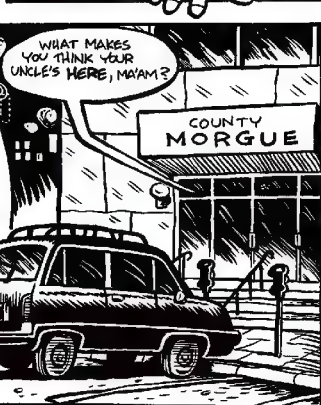
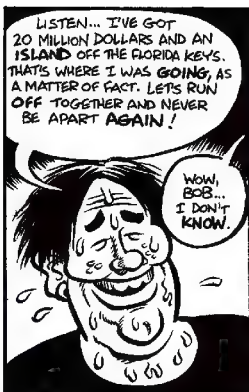


"WELL, ONE THING LED TO ANOTHER. WE GOT MARRIED LAST MARCH, AND NOW I'M JUST TRYING TO BE THE BEST WIFE AND MOM IN TREETOP ESTATES!"









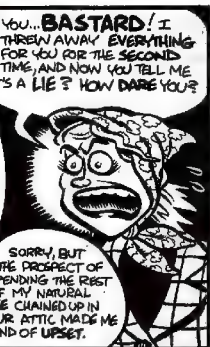


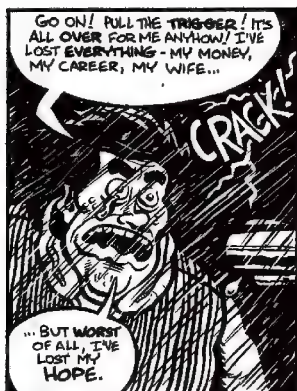


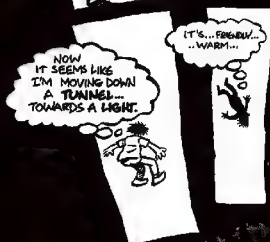
...IT'S KIND
OF SMALL
ISN'T IT?

IT'LL DO.
THE SMALLER
IT IS, THE EASIER
IT IS TO
MANUEVER.

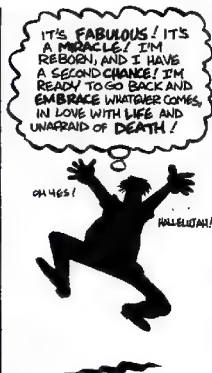






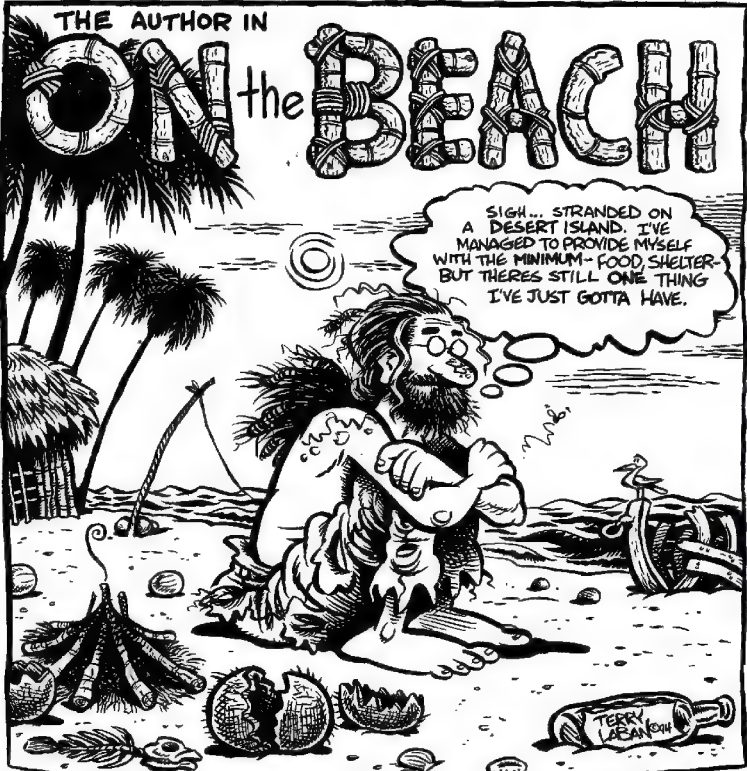




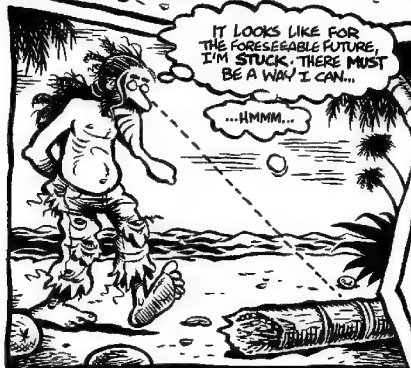


THE AUTHOR IN

ON the BEACH



SIGH... STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND. I'VE MANAGED TO PROVIDE MYSELF WITH THE MINIMUM- FOOD, SHELTER- BUT THERES STILL ONE THING I'VE JUST GOTTA HAVE.

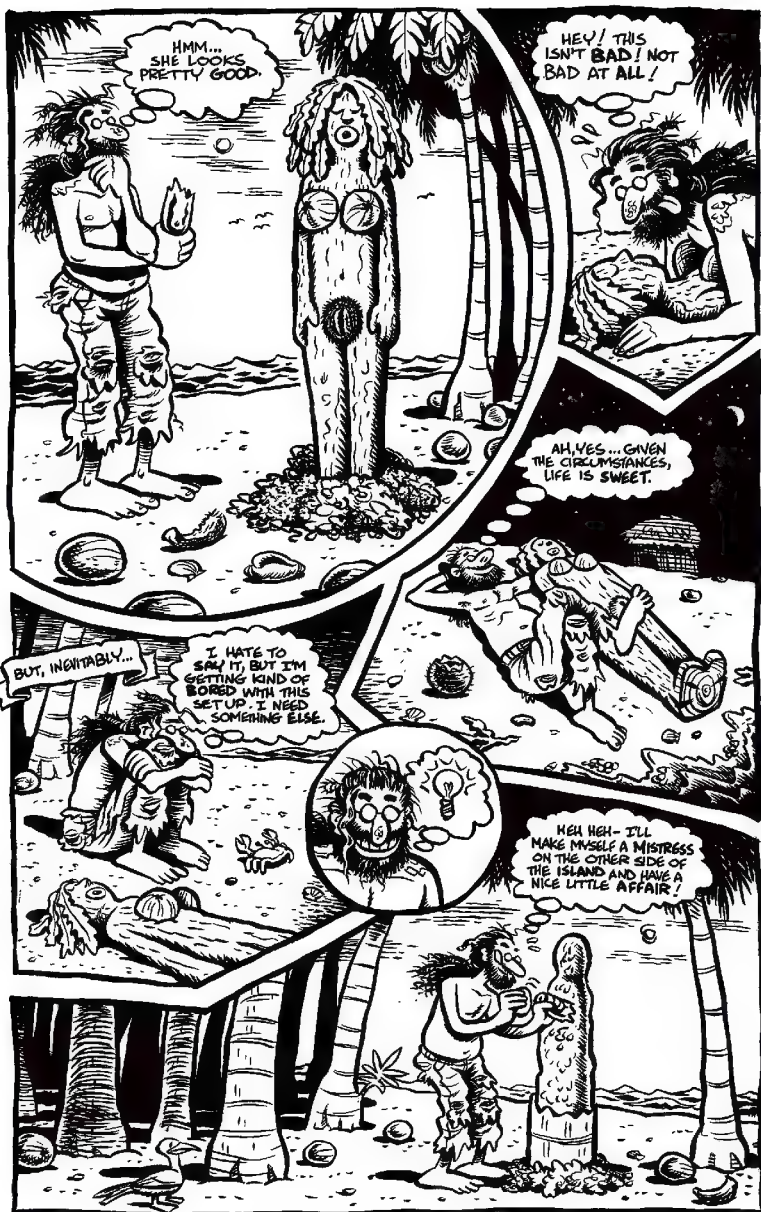


IT LOOKS LIKE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, I'M STUCK. THERE MUST BE A WAY I CAN...

...HMMM...



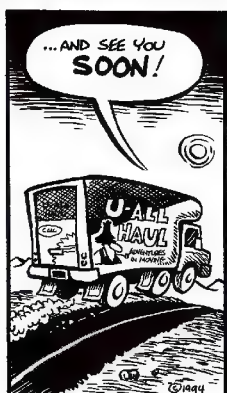
HACK
CUT
CARVE







AND SO...



LETTERS

FROM MY PALS

TERRY LABAN
BOX 408136
CHICAGO, IL 60640

DEAR TERRY— I JUST FINISHED RE-READING "CUD" TO DATE. I LOVED IT! WHY AREN'T YOU RICH?— MIKE LOW, VICTORIA, BC

AT THIS POINT, I'D SETTLE FOR LOWER MIDDLE CLASS.

DEAR TERRY LABAN—I KNOW YOU TOO STARTED OUT BY TOLLING IN THE OBSCURITY THAT IS MINI-COMICS BEFORE GRADUATING TO THE OBSCURE BIG TIME. ANY WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THOSE OF US IN THE MINORS?— ALEX ROBINSON, CAMBRIDGE, MA

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, MARRY SOMEONE WITH MONEY.

DEAR TERRY— I JUST READ MY COPY OF CUD #7 AND LOVED IT! MY ONLY CRITICISM IS, I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DIDN'T PUT BOB ON THE COVER FOR THE THIRD TIME IN A ROW! I KNOW A COUPLE OF ISSUES BACK, A READER WROTE SOME LAME-ASS LETTER SAYING YOU'D

SELL MORE ISSUES IF YOU JUST GET THIS GUY'S UGLY MUG OFF THE COVER. DID YOU BUCKLE TO POPULAR OPINION OR WHAT? I, FOR ONE, THINK BOB IS TOTALLY HOT, AND I CAN THINK OF A LOT OF SINGLE WOMEN OVER 30 WHO SPEND A LOT OF TIME IN COMIC BOOK STORES WHO FEEL THE SAME WAY— SANDI O'HARA, BROOKLYN, NY

Y'ELLOW. NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVE NOTICED SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER NUMBERS OF 30'ISH, SINGLE WOMEN HANGING OUT IN COMIC SHOPS LATELY. OH WELL— WHAT CAN I SAY? NO WONDER I'M NOT GETTING RICH.

GREETINGS, TERRY LABAN— VERY QUICKLY— IN REGARDS TO ED FEADER'S LETTER IN ISSUE 7, WHAT IS GENERATION X? IS THAT SOME CHEESY MARVEL "X" TITLE? OR IS IT A CORPORATE TITLE FOR A GENERATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE? — KENTH HELL, WOODSTOCK, IL

OF COURSE, "GENERATION X" IS BOTH THESE THINGS, AND MORE, INCLUDING THE NAME OF AN OLD PUNK BAND ONCE HEADED BY FUTURE ROCK-STAR BILLY IDOL. WELL, THEY LOOKED KIND OF PUNKY (IN FACT,

BILLY IDOL STILL DOES) BUT THEY SOUNDED MORE LIKE DURAN DURAN THAN THE SEX PISTOLS. IRONICALLY, DESPITE THE NAME, MR. IDOL IS IN FACT A "BOOMER."

DEAR TERRY— LET ME ASK YOU SOMETHING. ARE YOU TAKING SWIPES AT THE HOLY COWS OF MODERN CULTURE BECAUSE YOU FEEL AN HONEST INDIGNATION AT THE OVER-ZEALOUS IDEOLOGICAL RANTS OF THESE VARIOUS GROUPS IN OUR SOCIETY? OR DO YOU LAMPOON THE PC FANATICS, ART-HOUSE PHILOSOPHERS, ETC. FOR THE SAME REASON BOB CUDD INKENSES OUTRAGE— TO GET ATTENTION AND MAKE BUCKS?

ALSO, WHY DO YOU DRAW YOURSELF AS A SKINNY GUY WITH GLASSES AND LONG HAIR DRAWN BACK IN A PONY TAIL? I THINK I SAW A PICTURE OF YOU WHERE YOU HAD GLASSES, BUT SHORT HAIR. IF YOU DO LOOK LIKE THAT, WHY THE ALTER-EGO? BY THE WAY, IT'S TEK 9, NOT TECH 9. — JOHN E. DOS, BURBANK, CA

I PRAY FOR THE DAY WHEN I GET ENOUGH BUCKS AND ATTENTION TO SAY THEY MOTIVATE ME BUT TEL THAT HAPPY TIME, I HAVE TO SAY I DO THIS WORK MAINLY BECAUSE I'M A PILL. THERE ARE PICTURES OF ME WITH SHORT HAIR AROUND, BUT NONE TAKEN AFTER 1990, WHEN I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO GET MY LOCKS INTO A PONYTAIL THE SIZE OF A CHESTNUT. THEY NOW HAVE A FOOT OR SO DOWN MY BACK, AND ELICIT PRAISE AND ADMIRATION FROM PASSERS-BY. NO ALTER-EGOS HERE, PAL— IF YOU MEET ME YOU'LL SEE I LOOK JUST THE WAY I DRAW MYSELF.



CARTOONISTS: PORTRAY YOUR CHARACTERS READING CUD/SUPERB EXAMPLE FROM JESSICA ABELS ARTBARE#3.

Plugs

THE MAGIC WHISTLE — I DON'T THINK SAM HENDERSON'S ACTUALLY GOD, THOUGH THE POSSIBILITY DOES EXIST. I DO THINK "THE MAGIC WHISTLE" CONTAINS THE FUNNIEST CARTOONS BEING PRODUCED TO DAY, RIGHT UP THERE WITH SCOTT ADAMS' "DILBERT". LIKE ADAMS, HENDERSON'S WRITING FAR TRANSCENDS HIS MINIMAL-BUT-ADEQUATE DRAWING ABILITY, BUT THAT'S ACTUALLY A STRENGTH. AS IT IS, JUST WHEN YOU'VE DEEGED HIM AS ONE OF THOSE FASHIONABLE "THE JOKE IS THERE'S NO JOKE" GUYS, HE HITS YOU FROM BEHIND WITH A POINT SO PROFOUND AND DEEPLY FELT, HE MAKES YOUR PANTS WET. #1-6 ARE \$2.00 EACH, BUT SEND HIM 12 OR 13 BUCKS FOR EVERYTHING HE'S GOT. IT'LL BE MONEY WELL SPENT, ESPECIALLY IF IT TURNS OUT HE IS GOD. SAM HENDERSON, 14 BAYARD ST. #3, BROOKLYN, NY, 11211

BOX OFFICE POISON #3 — I'M A SUCKER FOR LOVE STORIES, AND THIS IS A NICE ONE. ALEX ROBINSON TOUCHES ALL THE RIGHT PLACES TO CREATE A WHOLE CAST OF INTERESTING, ENGAGING CHARACTERS IN THIS TALE OF A RECENT COLLEGE GRAD CONTEMPLATING HIS LAST LOVE WHILE HE MOVES INTO A NEW PAD. ROBINSON'S ART IS SOMETIMES A LITTLE ROUGH, BUT HIS CARTOONING IS SOLID, AND HIS GIRLS ARE REMARKABLY CUTE. UNDERVALUED AT \$1.00 EACH FROM ALEX ROBINSON, 2716 14th AVE., BROOKLYN, NY 11215

RITCHIE KILL MY TOADS — THIS BIG, PERFECT BOUND BOOK FEATURES A COLLECTION OF AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL STORIES CONCERNING THE CHILDHOOD OF SCOTT GETCHELL, A CAMBRIDGE CARTOONIST WHOSE WORK IS OFTEN PUBLISHED BY SKIDMARK PRESS. GETCHELL'S STORIES, MUNDANE ON THE SURFACE, HAVE AN UNDERLYING BLEAKNESS, ALIENATION AND TERROR. THE DEAD PANTONE WEARS AT TIMES, BUT I NEVER GET TIRED OF GETCHELL'S ART, WHICH IS FIRST RATE. DON'T KNOW WHAT IT COSTS, BUT SEND 4 OR 5 BUCKS TO SCOTT GETCHELL, 17 ELM ST. #4, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

FUKT1-3 — IAN JEANS PRODUCES THESE SMALL, UNDERPROCESSING MINIS, WHICH FEATURE COLOR XEROX COVERS AND STORIES INVOLVING A CAST OF UGLY LITTLE CHARACTERS DRESSED IMPECCABLY IN THE LATEST SLACKERWEAR AND HAVING SOMEWHAT ARCHIE-ESQUE ADVENTURES. THE ART IS GREAT, ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING IT LOOKS LIKE IT WAS XEROXED RIGHT OUT OF HIS SKETCHBOOK. THEY PROBABLY WON'T CHANGE YOUR LIFE, BUT THEY'RE WORTH 75 CENTS EACH FROM IAN JEANS, PO BOX 4257, STATION E, OTTAWA, ONT. K1S-5B3 CANADA.

THE "PLUGS" COLUMN SHOULD CONTINUE IN THE NEW CUD, THOUGH IT WON'T APPEAR TILL NEXT SUMMER, SO YOU MAY WANT TO HOLD OFF SENDING STUFF.

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